

**Charlotte Street Foundation  
2013 Visual Artist Awards Exhibition**

*Featuring new work by Awards Fellows*

**MIKE ERICKSON  
ERIKA LYNNE HANSON  
PAUL ANTHONY SMITH**

**November 22, 2013 – February 1, 2014**



**Opening Reception:**

Friday, Nov. 22, 6-9pm at Grand Arts

**Gallery Talk with the artists:**

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2pm at Grand Arts

Grand Arts is pleased to host this year's Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards Exhibition featuring the 2013 Awards Fellows: **Mike Erickson, Erika Lynne Hanson and Paul Anthony Smith.** Please join us at Grand Arts to honor these artists at an opening reception on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-9pm and on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm for a gallery talk with the fellows. The reception and gallery talk are free and open to the public. The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Each of the awarded artists will exhibit works made within the past one to two years. Most of these recent works have not been seen by Kansas City audiences. This exhibition is organized by Lacey Wozny, Curator of Public Programs at Grand Arts. A catalog brochure with an essay by Charlotte Street Foundation Curator-in-Residence Danny Orendorff will accompany the exhibition.

**Mike Erickson** will show an eclectic group of recent paintings and sculpture. The selected works highlight Erickson's various muses, both conceptual and compositional, and include a *vanitas*-style still life with personal effects, fantastical dream sequences, and renditions of current events mingled

with pop culture and art history. The apparent naiveté in many of Erickson's works is often foiled by the tragi-comic ingenuity of their titles. The works tread a fine line between subversion and perversion, fleshing out a spectrum of the absurd. Likewise, Erickson is not afraid to project surreal futures onto his subjects, to speculate about impossible scenes or to assert characters' karmic weight. With equal intensity, the paradoxical meditations of *memento mori* ("remember you will die") and *dum vivimus, vivamus* ("while we live, let us live") ring anew in this artist's showcase.

**Erika Lynne Hanson** will present a multi-media installation that reflects personal journeys and ever-changing landscapes through careful devices of framing and re-framing. The artist's dynamic panoramas are informed by her recent relocation to Tempe, AZ from Kansas City, MO, and by a series of residencies in the Bay Area earlier this summer. A mash-up of scenery will be captured in cloth and beaded weavings, photo stills pulled from National Parks' webcams, videos of temporary installations, and found object sculptures. Moving away from static or idealized notions of landscape, Hanson's work transports us from prairie to sea, from desert to mountains, and back again in no fixed order. The disorienting phenomenon of the strangely familiar landscape is a reminder that all visions are composites, varying with the viewer's experience and levels of remove. By turns conceptual and comedic, Hanson's work explores the instability of reconciling one's lived experience of place with other depictions or memories of it.

**Paul Anthony Smith** has created a new series of picotage works and a video centered on his childhood home in Jamaica. Smith's 2-D process starts with candid photos of familiar figures such as pedestrians, airport tarmac workers or family members. For this work, he selected three people at the Port Antonio market to profile in picotage form. The relief stippling and over-painting obscures the specifics of his individual subjects. Questions of cultural belonging and ethnic identity, or lack thereof, break the surface of these works in a refreshing and personal way. Similar issues arise in Smith's video, which he shot clandestinely from his mother's former house. This piece depicts an unmarked, single-lane bridge along a narrow commuter road, filmed over the course of several days. In the work, drivers and pedestrians deftly maneuver, relying on non-verbal communication and common courtesy to make their way across the bridge, ultimately allowing traffic to flow. These impromptu gestures offer a narrative of human beauty as an alternative to the cold and rote surveillance reel.

**IMAGES** (Clockwise from Top): 1) Mike Erickson, *Lot #01?2013, One Pair Matching Mysterious Dream Pendants. Owner Receives +2 Wisdom and +1 Charisma*, 2013. Acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24 inches. Photo Credit: E.G. Schempf. 2) Erika Lynne Hanson, *but of the relationships between the measurements of its space and the events of its past*, 2013. Single channel video, 5:50. 3) Paul Anthony Smith, *Port Antonio Market #4*, 2013. Picotage on C-print with spray paint, 30 3/4 x 20 3/4 inches. Image courtesy the artist and ZieherSmith. Photo Credit: E.G. Schempf.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Mike Erickson** is a Kansas City, Missouri based painter and maker. He studied Painting and Printmaking at the Kansas City Art Institute, BFA class of '99, and Virginia Commonwealth University, MFA class of '07. His interests range from Greek and Roman antiquity to alternative/conspiratorial theory to current day events. Erickson is cofounder and current director of 1522 Saint Louis project space in Kansas City. His work has been exhibited nationally and can be found in numerous private collections.

**Erika Lynne Hanson's** practice holds the act of weaving at its core, yet takes the shape of installations that emphasize the relationships of objects. Hanson received a MFA from California College of the Arts and a BFA in Fiber from the Kansas City Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Kansas City, San Francisco, Chicago and Minneapolis. Hanson is cofounder and facilitator of 1522 Saint Louis, an experimental project space in Kansas City. She was a Charlotte Street Studio Resident from 2010-2012. Previously a lecturer at the Kansas City Art Institute, she is currently assistant professor of Fibers/Social Practice at Arizona State University.

**Paul Anthony Smith** was born in St. Anns Bay, Jamaica. He was raised in Miami, Florida and relocated to Kansas City, Missouri where he received his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2010. His work investigates autobiographical, ancestral, and cultural self-identification in contemporary scenarios. He is the recipient of a 2013 ArtsKC Inspiration Grant. Prior to his solo exhibition with ZieherSmith, New York in early 2013, Smith was named by Huffington Post as one of the 30 best Contemporary

Black Artists Under 40. He has participated in residencies at: Art Omi International Artist Residency, Ghent, NY; Anderson Ranch Art Center, Snowmass Village, CO; and Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project Studio Residency Program, Kansas City, MO. Paul Anthony Smith is represented by ZieherSmith Gallery, New York.

#### **ABOUT GRAND ARTS**

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City, Mo., that commissions and assists artists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. The gallery is open Thu-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-5 and by appointment.

#### **ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION**

For more than 16 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed nearly \$900,000 in awards, grants and commissions to artists and their projects, and connected individual artists to one another and to the broader community. Charlotte Street – with its community of artists – strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas, and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit [www.charlottestreet.org](http://www.charlottestreet.org)

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